

Short Histories of Notable Regiments

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EIGHTH NEW YORK CAVALRY—"ROCHESTER REGIMENT."

CHAPMAN'S BRIGADE—WILSON'S DIVISION—CAVALRY CORPS A. P.

(1) COL. SAMUEL J. CROOKS. (2) COL. BENJAMIN F. DAVIS, U. S. A. (Killed). (3) COL. WILLIAM L. MARKELL. (4) COL. WILLIAM H. BENJAMIN; Bvt. Brig.-Gen. (5) COL. EDMUND H. POPE; Bvt. Brig.-Gen.

COMPANIES.	KILLED AND DIED OF WOUNDS.			DIED OF DISEASE, ACCIDENTS, IN PRISON, &c.			Total Enrollment.
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	
Field and Staff.....	1	..	1	1	1	2	28
Company A.....	..	10	10	..	25	25	224
B.....	1	13	14	..	26	26	229
C.....	1	7	8	1	19	20	209
D.....	2	10	12	..	16	16	201
E.....	4	8	12	..	17	17	185
F.....	1	5	6	..	15	15	125
G.....	..	4	4	2	10	12	175
H.....	2	7	9	..	21	21	133
I.....	..	7	7	1	10	11	182
K.....	1	6	7	..	17	17	140
L.....	1	6	7	..	11	11	125
M.....	..	8	8	..	12	12	132
Totals.....	14	91	105	5	200	205	2,088

Died in Confederate prisons (previously included), 52.

BATTLES.	K. & M. W.	BATTLES.	K. & M. W.	BATTLES.	K. & M. W.	BATTLES.	K. & M. W.
Winchester, Va., May 24, 1862.....	2	Brandy Station, Va., Aug. 1, 1863.....	3	Kearneysville, Va., Aug. 26, 1864.....	2	Snicker's Gap, Va., Sept. 17, 1864.....	3
Snicker's Gap, Va., Oct. 27, 1862.....	1	In Action, Va., Oct. 10, 1863.....	1	Stevensburg, Va., Oct. 11, 1863.....	3	Culpeper, Va., Oct. 12, 1863.....	1
Barbee's Cross Roads, Va., Nov. 8, 1862.....	1	Culpeper, Va., Oct. 12, 1863.....	1	Oak Grove, Va., Oct. 15, 1863.....	1	Mount Olive, Va., Oct. 9, 1864.....	1
Sulphur Springs, Va., Nov. 8, 1862.....	1	Oak Grove, Va., Oct. 15, 1863.....	1	Barnett's Ford, Va., Feb. 6, 1864.....	2	Middletown, Va., Nov. 12, 1864.....	1
Amissville, Va., Nov. 10, 1862.....	1	Barnett's Ford, Va., Feb. 6, 1864.....	2	Waynesboro, Va., March 2, 1865.....	1	Todd's Tavern, Va., May 5, 1864.....	1
Jefferson, Va., Nov. 14, 1862.....	1	Todd's Tavern, Va., May 5, 1864.....	1	Ashland, Va., March 15, 1865.....	1	Yellow Tavern, Va., May 11, 1864.....	1
Dumfries, Va., March 2, 1863.....	1	Yellow Tavern, Va., May 11, 1864.....	1	Deep Forks, Va., April 1, 1865.....	6	Meadow Bridge, Va., July 1, 1863.....	6
Independence, Va., March 4, 1863.....	1	Meadow Bridge, Va., July 1, 1863.....	6	Five Forks, Va., April 2, 1865.....	1	Cold Harbor, Va., June 2, 1864.....	3
Beverly Ford, Va., June 9, 1863.....	17	Cold Harbor, Va., June 2, 1864.....	3	Appomattox Station, Va., April 8, 1865.....	6	White Oak Swamp, Va., June 13, 1864.....	5
Gettysburg, Pa., July 1, 1863.....	6	White Oak Swamp, Va., June 13, 1864.....	5	Picket Line, Va., June 23, 1864.....	7	Nottoway C. H., Va., June 23, 1864.....	7
Williamsport, Md., July 6, 1863.....	2	Nottoway C. H., Va., June 23, 1864.....	7	Place unknown.....	2	Ream's Station, Va., June 29, 1864.....	2
Boonsboro, Md., July 8, 1863.....	5	Ream's Station, Va., June 29, 1864.....	2				
Funkstown, Md., July 10, 1863.....	1						
Chester Gap, Va., July 21, 1863.....	2						

NOTES.—The above enrollment does not include the three new companies (K, L, and M) which joined in April, 1865, at the close of the war. The regiment was organized at Rochester in November, 1861, having been recruited in that city and in its vicinity. On arriving at Washington it was assigned to Banks's Corps, and was under fire, for the first time, at Winchester, May 25, 1862, where five dismounted companies were engaged. During the Antietam campaign it served in Pleasanton's Cavalry Division, having previously distinguished itself by its escape from Harper's Ferry by passing through the besieging lines at night, and capturing some of the enemy's trains while on the way. It fought under Pleasanton in the famous cavalry battle at Beverly Ford, where it sustained the heaviest loss of any regiment on the field, its casualties amounting to 12 killed, 31 wounded, and 7 missing. Colonel Davis was killed in a personal encounter in this action. At Gettysburg the Eighth fought in Gamble's Brigade, Buford's Division—the brigade which opened that historic battle. During Sheridan's raids and the Shenandoah campaign, in 1864, the regiment served in Wilson's (3d) Division. This division was commanded by General Custer in the final campaign of 1865.

EIGHTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

STEVENSON'S BRIGADE—LOGAN'S DIVISION—SEVENTEENTH CORPS.

(1) COL. FRANK L. OGLESBY; Major-Gen. (2) COL. FRANK L. RHODES. (3) COL. JOHN P. POST. (4) COL. JOSIAH A. SHEETS; Bvt. Brig.-Gen.

COMPANIES.	KILLED AND DIED OF WOUNDS.			DIED OF DISEASE, ACCIDENTS, IN PRISON, &c.			Total Enrollment.
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	
Field and Staff.....	1	..	1	1	1	2	16
Company A.....	1	21	22	..	12	12	184
B.....	1	15	16	..	16	16	190
C.....	1	16	17	..	18	18	193
D.....	1	14	15	..	13	13	199
E.....	1	15	16	..	12	12	198
F.....	2	14	16	..	20	20	186
G.....	1	10	11	..	14	14	187
H.....	1	16	17	..	20	20	186
I.....	1	17	18	..	10	10	193
K.....	2	21	23	..	19	19	197
Totals.....	6	160	166	..	155	155	1,929

Of the original enrollment enlisted in 1861, there were 148 killed.

BATTLES.	K. & M. W.	BATTLES.	K. & M. W.	BATTLES.	K. & M. W.	BATTLES.	K. & M. W.
Charleston, Mo., May 1, 1862.....	1	Siege of Vicksburg.....	10	Shiloh, Tenn., April 6, 1862.....	6	Spanish Fort, Ala., May 1, 1862.....	1
Fort Donelson, Tenn., Feb. 15, 1862.....	81	Jackson, Miss., May 18, 1862.....	1	Fort Blakely, Ala., April 9, 1865.....	15	Memphis, Tenn., May 4, 1866.....	1
Shiloh, Tenn., April 6, 1862.....	32	Spanish Fort, Ala., May 1, 1862.....	1	Memphis, Tenn., May 4, 1866.....	1	Steamer "Moderator" (1863).....	1
Raymond, Miss., May 22, 1862.....	12	Fort Blakely, Ala., April 9, 1865.....	15				
Champion's Hill, Miss., May 22, 1862.....	5	Memphis, Tenn., May 4, 1866.....	1				
Milliken's Bend, La., May 22, 1862.....	1	Steamer "Moderator" (1863).....	1				

Present, also, at Siege of Corinth; Port Gibson; Brownsville; Meridian.

NOTES.—Mustered in April 25, 1861, for three months, after which it reorganized and mustered in for three years. Leaving Cairo in October, it served in Missouri until February, 1862, when it moved with Grant up the Tennessee River to Fort Henry, and thence to Fort Donelson, where it was actively engaged in the assault, being then in Oglesby's (1st) Brigade, McClelland's Division; loss, 54 killed and 188 wounded—a total of 242, out of 613 officers and men engaged. At Shiloh, under command of Captain Robert H. Sturgess, it lost 30 killed, 91 wounded, and 3 missing, out of 474 engaged. After the Siege of Corinth, May, 1862, the Eighth shared in Grant's Tennessee and Mississippi campaigns, prior to the investment of Vicksburg. During the Vicksburg campaign it was in Stevenson's (3d) Brigade, Logan's Division, Seventeenth Corps. At the battle of Raymond it lost 8 killed and 19 wounded; at Champion's Hill, 2 killed, 7 wounded, and 3 missing; and in the assault on Vicksburg, May 22, 4 killed and 19 wounded. The regiment remained in Mississippi during 1864, reuniting in the meantime, and going home on its veteran furlough. On January 1, 1865, it left Memphis for New Orleans, proceeding thence, in March, to Mobile, where it was prominently engaged in the siege of that place. In the successful assault on Fort Blakely, April 9, 1865, it lost 10 killed and 54 wounded; its colors were the first on the enemy's works, the color-sergeant falling dead in the charge. In June, 1864, the recruits left in the field by the Seventeenth Illinois, upon its return home, were transferred to the Eighth. The regiment remained on duty in Louisiana and Texas until the spring of 1866, and was finally mustered out at Baton Rouge, May 4, 1866.

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EDITORIAL NOTE: The above pages are reproduced from Col. Fox's famous book, "Regimental Losses." Other pages, giving short histories of notable regiments, will appear from week to week. It is hoped the appearance of these short histories will stimulate comrades to send in material for the preparation of more complete histories of their respective regiments than have yet appeared.

One Sample Letter.

Congressmen whose apathy or antagonism year after year defeats efforts for a just law to provide for payment of service pensions and widows' pensions ought to read the many pathetic stories that stir the hearts of editors of The National Tribune as they daily read the letters from suffering comrades and the suffering widows of comrades whose valor and endurance saved the Union and made the present greatness and wealth of the Government possible. Here is a letter, taken without selection, from one day's mails, as a sample.

"This is a town of strong Southern sentiment, and they still have their Confederate meetings. Only a few Union soldiers live here. I have to bear and suffer and am a great sorrow. My son, Frank Skillman, my oldest child, my first-born babe of precious memory, who would have been 45 years old in September, has been taken from me. He was my support, the comfort of my home in my old age; my dependence for the days when my years shall make me helpless for my own support. On April 27, he, while fixing an awning, fell and sustained concussion of the brain in the afternoon, and that evening he died, leaving me desolate. I have one other son and a daughter; but they are married; and Frank remained to me and with me and made my home for me. And they buried him, and an alone—alone at 45 years of age, suffering much from rheumatism

and other disease. My husband, M. L. Skillman, served in the U. S. Navy and suffered exposure and hardships in the Tennessee and other rivers, on gunboats. He was a fireman—a place of prodigious toil—and one Sunday afternoon when a charge of coal sunk, he, and others, had to unload the coal, standing in water to the waist, and he took cold, had fever and was never well again. He died Sept. 22, 1867. We were married in 1867. He was mustered out in June, 1865. Long after he applied for a pension but failed, until, under the law of June 27, 1860, in President Harrison's Administration, he was allowed \$12 a month; but under President Cleveland Hoke Smith cut it down to \$8, which was all he ever received.—Mrs. A. G. Skillman, Fayette, Mo."

UNITED STATES PENSION LAWS.

A Comprehensive Digest of Pension Legislation From the Foundation of the Government.

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BOUNTIES.

COLORED TROOPS.

The act of March 3, 1863, provided: "That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause to be enlisted, for each cook, two undercooks of African descent, who shall receive for their services \$10 per month, and one ration per day; three dollars of said monthly pay may be in clothing."

Under cooks (colored), whose enlistment was authorized, as above, are not entitled to bounty unless transferred to the ranks, in which case they are entitled to the pay, bounty and other allowances of soldiers from and after the date of transfer. The period during which they served as undercooks is not considered in computing the two years' service necessary to entitle them to bounty. If transferred to the ranks, if transferred at a time when no installment bounties were payable, they were not under any circumstances entitled to installments which would have accrued during the period antecedent to their transfer, had they been originally enlisted as soldiers.

The act of June 15, 1864, provided: "Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all persons of color who have been or may be mustered into the military service of the United States shall receive the same uniform, clothing, arms, equipments, rations, medical and hospital attendance, pay and emoluments, other than bounty, as other soldiers or the regular or volunteer forces of the United States. If the arm of the service, from and after the first day of January, 1864; and that every person of color who shall hereafter be mustered into the service shall receive the same bounty as the President shall order in the different States and parts of the United States, not exceeding \$100."

That all persons of color who have been or may be mustered into the military service of the United States shall receive the same uniform, clothing, arms, equipments, rations, medical and hospital attendance, pay and emoluments, other than bounty, as other soldiers or the regular or volunteer forces of the United States. If the arm of the service, from and after the first day of January, 1864; and that every person of color who shall hereafter be mustered into the service shall receive the same bounty as the President shall order in the different States and parts of the United States, not exceeding \$100."

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tificate for wounds received or sickness incurred since their last enlistment."

This enactment has been construed as authorizing a deduction of \$25 in all cases wherein a soldier enlisted prior to July 18, 1864, for a term which entitled him to bounty received on installment of the same in advance, and was discharged before two years' service for reasons other than the close of the war or disability incurred in service and line of duty subsequent to his last enlistment.

HEIRS OF THREE YEARS VOLUNTEERS ENLISTED BEFORE JULY 22, 1861.

The "legal heirs" of a soldier enlisted under the President's proclamation of May 3, 1861, were, by General Orders 15 and 25, A. G. O., War Department, dated May 4 and 25, 1861, respectively, to receive the bounty of \$100 therein offered, if he died in the service. The bounty was paid the heirs under the provisions of the act of July 22, 1861, if the soldier's death occurred in the service, but if the soldier had died after discharge without having received the bounty, the heirs were not entitled unless the conditions of the act of July 22, 1861, had been complied with. Even under the act of April 22, 1872, it having in terms made no mention of "heirs," the heirs were held, until 1882, not entitled to the bounty under the provisions of the act of July 22, 1861. It was then decided that heirs of soldiers entitled under the law, dying after April 22, 1872, and without having received the bounty, were entitled to receive the same. It is now held that the heirs are entitled without regard to the date of the soldier's death.

HEIRS OF PERSONS ENLISTED UNDER ACT OF JULY 4, 1864.

The act of July 4, 1864, applying to all military enlistments in the volunteer and regular service after July 4, 1864, provided: "That where any enlisted man has been or may be detailed for duty as a clerk, or for other service, and he shall be at headquarters, or elsewhere, he shall not be at such detail be deprived of any rights to bounties now due or hereafter to become due, but shall be as fully entitled thereto as though no such detail had been made."

Previously it had been held that only the bounty accrued at the date of the detail was payable.

DISCHARGED TO ENLIST IN REGULAR ARMY.

Soldiers discharged from the volunteer service, to enable them to enlist into the Regular Army, were not entitled to any bounty, or installments of bounty, for their volunteer service, that had not accrued at the date of their discharge therefrom. Thus a soldier who had enlisted as a volunteer for three years under the act of July 22, 1861, and was discharged before two years' service, and then enlisted in the Regular Army, would not be entitled to bounty under that law, but would be entitled to the full term of his enlistment in the Regular Army, and then governing bounty for such enlistment.

DISCHARGED FOR PROMOTION.

If discharged before two years' service to accept promotion to the grade of commissioned officer, a soldier is not entitled to any bounty but that actually accrued, unless he come within the provisions of the act of July 22, 1861, his original enlistment being for three years and dating prior to July 22, 1861. (See "First Call for Three Years Volunteers.")

DISCHARGED AS SUPERNUMERARY.

If discharged as a supernumerary non-commissioned officer after April 28, 1865, a soldier is not entitled to bounty, but is entitled to the full term of his enlistment, and is entitled to full bounty accordingly. If discharged as such before April 28, 1865, he is not entitled to bounty, but is entitled to the full term of his enlistment, and is entitled to full bounty accordingly.

DISCHARGE FOR CLOSE OF WAR.

All soldiers discharged because of the "end of the war," or after April 28, 1865, for an equivalent reason, to wit: that their "services are no longer required," are entitled to full bounty, unless enlisted after July 17, 1864.

MILITARY CONVICT.

It is held that the time a soldier served as a convict in a military prison, or in a military hospital, is not considered in computing the period of his service for the purpose of his enlistment, unless by the sentence of the court he was forfeit all rights which might thereafter become due him.

ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE.

The period during which a soldier was "absent without leave" or a "deserter" cannot be considered in computing the period of his service, unless he was held in arrest by the civil authorities, unless he was convicted. If captured by the enemy while "absent without leave," he is considered as on duty from and after capture.

IN ARREST.

The period during which a soldier was held in arrest by the military authorities is now considered in computing the period of his service, unless he was held without trial, and no record exists showing the cause of his arrest, in such case the presumption of innocence remaining.

\$25 ADVANCE BOUNTY.

The army appropriation act of July 5, 1862, provided: "That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause to be enlisted, for each cook, two undercooks of African descent, who shall receive for their services \$10 per month, and one ration per day; three dollars of said monthly pay may be in clothing."